

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chairman Kelly Gebhardt, on April 1, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 422 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Kelly Gebhardt, Chairman (R)
Sen. Aubyn Curtiss (R)
Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen (D)
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Sen. Jim Keane (D)
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)
Sen. David E. Wanzonried (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Debby Barrett, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Gary L. Perry (R)
Sen. Jim Peterson (R)
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lindsey Hern, Committee Secretary
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HJ 30, 3/30/2009; SR 19, 3/25/2009;
SR 20, 3/25/2009

Executive Action: SR 19; SR 20; HJ 30

Sen. Keane left the committee before the hearings began.

HEARING ON SR 19

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:00:55 Sen. David Wanzenried (D), SD 49, opened the hearing on SR 19, Confirm DEQ director. Sen. Wanzenried asked Sen. Gebhardt to close on the hearing for him due to needing to be in another committee for another bill hearing.

00:01:09 Sen. Steinbeisser and Sen. Barrett came to the committee.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:02:32 Bruce Nelson, Chief of Staff, Governors' Office
00:03:16 Richard Opper, Director, Department of Environmental Quality(DEQ)
00:04:46 Tom Ebzery, Billings Attorney
00:07:23 Mark Lambrecht, PPL Montana
00:07:57 Sen. Perry came to the committee.

Opponents' Testimony:

None

Informational Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:09:47 Sen. Hansen
00:10:29 Mr. Opper, DEQ
00:10:52 Sen. Barrett
00:11:09 Mr. Opper, DEQ
00:12:44 Sen. Barrett
00:13:27 Mr. Opper, DEQ
00:14:21 Sen. Barrett
00:14:50 Mr. Opper, DEQ
00:16:05 Chairman Gebhardt
00:17:27 Mr. Opper, DEQ
00:17:36 Chairman Gebhardt
00:18:55 Mr. Opper, DEQ

Closing by Sponsor:

00:19:46 Sen. Gebhardt closed on behalf of Sen. Wanzenried, and Vice Chair Barrett took up the position as Chair.

00:20:20 Sen. Gebhardt took up the position as Chair.

HEARING ON SR 20

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:20:29 Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D), SD 41, opened the hearing on SR 20, Confirm DNRC director.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:22:25 Mr. Nelson, Governor's office

00:23:06 Robert Johnson, Montana State AFL-CIO

00:23:41 Mary Sexton, Director, Department of Natural Resources (DNRC)

Opponents' Testimony:

None

Informational Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:26:18 Sen. Barrett

00:27:11 Ms. Sexton, DNRC

00:27:19 Sen. Hansen

00:27:52 Ms. Sexton, DNRC

00:28:00 Chairman Gebhardt

00:28:35 Ms. Sexton, DNRC

Closing by Sponsor:

00:28:44 Sen. Kaufmann

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 20

00:30:38 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Kaufmann moved that **SR 20 BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Peterson, Sen. Keane and Sen. Wanzenried voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 19

00:31:12 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Kaufmann moved that **SR 19 BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried 10-1 by voice vote with Sen. Barrett voting no. Sen. Peterson, Sen. Keane and Sen. Wanzonried voted by proxy.

00:32:09 Recess

Sen. Tropila left the committee before the hearing on HJ 30 started.

HEARING ON HJ 30

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:41:41 Rep. Dennis Himmelberger (R), HD 47, opened the hearing on HJ 30, Study fire suppression issues.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:44:37 Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance Company; Speaking on behalf of Jacqueline Lenmark, American Insurance Association (AIA); and Bruce Spencer, Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCIAA)

00:45:59 Mr. Johnson, Montana State AFL-CIO

Opponents' Testimony:

None

Informational Testimony:

00:47:16 Ms. Sexton, DNRC

00:47:57 John Mudd, State Auditors' Office

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

None

Closing by Sponsor:

00:48:42 Rep. Himmelberger

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 30

00:49:23 **Motion:** Sen. Perry moved that **HJ 30 BE CONCURRED IN**.

Discussion:

00:49:43 Sen. Curtiss

00:50:10 Sen. Hansen

00:50:26 Sen. Wanzenried came to the committee.

00:51:15 Chairman Gebhardt

00:52:59 Sen. Tropila came to the committee.

00:53:23 Sen. Curtiss

00:54:25 **Vote:** Motion that **HJ 30 BE CONCURRED IN** carried
unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Peterson, Sen. Kaufmann
and Sen. Keane voted by proxy. Sen. Keane will carry
the bill in the Senate.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:10 P.M.

Lindsey Hern, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([nas72aad.pdf](#))